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Letter dated 28 September 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Sudan to the United Nations on the allegations by Amnesty International on the use of chemical weapons in Darfur (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

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Statement by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Sudan to the United Nations on the allegations by Amnesty International on the use of chemical weapons in Darfur

1. The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Sudan to the United Nations is surprised at the report of Amnesty International and the timing of the release of the report, which comes at the time of the official declaration, nationally and regionally, of the end of the conflict in Darfur that erupted in 2003. The people of the Sudan celebrated the conclusion of the tenure of the Darfur Regional Authority, which was mandated in 2011 with the implementation of the Doha Peace Agreement. The report, utterly unfounded, is released at a time when the Government of the Sudan is engaged with all partners and concerned countries to take more strides in the normalization of relations in all aspects.

2. The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, deployed in the region since 2007, comprises 17,500 troops and personnel to monitor all violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in the entire region of Darfur. So far during 2016, it has submitted around five reports to the Security Council of the United Nations, none of which include a single reference to the allegations which Amnesty International has yet to clarify.

3. Likewise, the Special Envoys to the Sudan from almost every corner of the world, including the Special Envoy of the United States of America, have enjoyed unfettered access to all areas in Darfur to date.

4. The Sudan has been a party to the International Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction since 1998. The Sudan is by no means in possession of any type of chemical weapons. The industrial facilities of the Sudan, military and civil, are all open to the verification of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons at all times.

5. The allegations of the use of chemical weapons by the Sudanese Armed Forces are baseless and fabricated. The ultimate objective of such wild accusations is to stir confusion with regard to the ongoing processes aimed at deepening peace and stability and enhancing economic development and social cohesion in the Sudan.

6. It is also worthy of mention that, in 1998, the Shifa pharmaceutical factory in Khartoum was bombed and completely destroyed on the basis of inaccurate and false intelligence. Later on, the Government of the Sudan was eventually cleared and the owner of the factory compensated. Such serious and unfounded accusations are damaging and should be ignored.